

BLET REVISION COMMITTEE MEETING
Johnston Community College
Smithfield, NC
April 16, 2010

Bob Yow called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He thanked Jason Godwin for hosting the meeting. Carolyn Holland called the roll.

Members Present:

Nancy Bennett
Kathryn Bryan
Mack Creson
Jason Godwin
Wrenn Johnson
Wayne Lamm
Jeffrey Robinson
Sammy Turner
Steve Warren

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Mark Dearry, Criminal Justice Standards Division
Joy Strickland, NC Department of Justice

Staff Present:

Bob Yow, NC Justice Academy
Carolyn Holland, NC Justice Academy
Sam Tracy, Intern, NC Department of Justice

Visitors Present:

Gordon Knight, Mitchell Community College
Capt. Charles Gardner, Chatham County Sheriff's Office
Lt. Joe Scoggins, Brunswick County Sheriff's Office

Bob announced that Richard Hammett and Jon Worthington had resigned from the committee due to job responsibilities.

Bob asked for approval of the January 29, 2010 meeting minutes. Jeff Robinson made the motion to approve the minutes. Wayne Lamm seconded. **The motion was approved.**

Driver Training

Traffic Cones

Bob reported that at the last meeting members requested that some research be done concerning the height of traffic cones used in the driver training exercises. Dan Worley, the Driver Training Instructor at the Justice Academy, provided Bob with his findings, recommending that the 18-

inch cone would be tall enough for the instructor to detect a strike/knock down. Steve Warren stated that he spoke with Highway Patrol instructors who also felt the appropriate height should be 18 inches.

Steve Warren made a motion to require a minimum height of 18 inches for the cones used in the Driver Training exercises. Sammy Turner seconded. **The motion was approved.**

Off-Road Recovery Video

Bob reported that the Driver Training Off-Road Recovery video was sent to members to review. The video is included in the BLET Driver Training lesson plan as a part of the added information on off-road recovery. Academy video staff will have the video available for the July 1 dissemination of BLET.

Kathryn Bryan made a motion to include the mandated video in the Driver Training lesson plan. Mack Creson seconded.

Jason Godwin asked if the video would be disseminated or available for purchase. Bob stated it would be available for purchase.

Kathryn asked if this material was being taught in the Specialized Driver Training Instructor Course. Bob stated that he would report the Committee's wishes to Dan Worley.

The motion was approved.

Human Trafficking Video

Bob stated that the block of instruction on Human Trafficking was approved by the Education and Training (E&T) Committee and would be sent to rule-making. Once approved, it will become effective January 1, 2011. A video to accompany this outline was sent to BLET Revision Committee members for review. Bob asked for discussion of the video.

Wayne Lamm stated the video was "sufficient," very general in nature; yet not specific to North Carolina. Kathryn issued an invitation to a task force meeting hosted by Dare County Sheriff's Office at the end of April. The meeting focuses on human trafficking and several agencies will be involved—DEA, FBI and CIA. The content of this meeting might be useful to the development of a video.

No one made a motion to include the video in the Human Trafficking outline. Bob stated he would talk with the author of the lesson plan and perhaps an alternative video could be produced making it more specific for North Carolina. The consensus of the Committee was that it would be preferable to have a video produced by the Justice Academy.

Drill and Ceremony Addition

Captain Charles Gardner of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office appeared before the Committee to present the lesson plan he prepared on Basic Drill and Marching Movements, Proper Wear of

and Fit of Uniforms and Courtesies. He was requesting the 8-hour topic be added to the BLET curriculum. He stressed the need for BLET recruits to learn these basic maneuvers and protocol.

Members discussed the topic. Some did not think the military-style training approach was the best; others felt the discipline is good and some schools already incorporate it. Members agreed that 8 hours was too long and that it should be optional training. Kathryn Bryan suggested making the material more like the ISD model and not a field training manual. Sammy Turner suggested adding the information to the Orientation block.

Jeff Robinson recommended the training be optional, not mandatory and reduce the hours. Sgt. Gardner stated he could scale it down to 4 hours. Bob stated that an option could be to have the material as a handout in the Orientation block and include in the instructor notes a reference to the training material.

Jeff Robinson made a motion to add the information on basic drill and marching movements, proper wear of and fit of uniforms, and courtesies to the Orientation block of instruction as a handout. Kathryn Bryan seconded. **The motion was approved.**

Bob stated that he would prepare the handout and instructor notes for committee members to review for the next meeting. Sgt. Gardner mentioned that the PowerPoint presentation provides instructions that are useful.

Steve Warren suggested the Committee consider adding information on gangs to the curriculum. Jeff Robinson thought Patrol Techniques would be a good block to include gang information.

Alternative Fire System

Bob reminded members that the current Explosives and Hazardous Materials Emergencies outline requires students to extinguish a fire. The current requirement is for the source of the fire to be diesel fuel. A proposal has been made to allow commercial propane systems to be used as an alternative to diesel fuel.

Steve Warren and Wayne Lamm recommended deleting the term “commercial” and just say propane-based system. Jeff Robinson stated that word “diesel” should be deleted.

Jason Godwin stated that he was still not convinced that BLET students would be taught how to put out real fires. The practical teaches how to put out fires on the top of water or flat surfaces, which is of little value.

Joy Strickland expressed her concern about using this alternative fuel source; the change should make certain that using this alternative source would meet the objectives approved by the Commission. Students would need to be able to perform the same function as previously designed in the lesson plan objectives. She had concerns about using systems that are custom made and not commercially made.

Wayne Lamm commented that in the prior lesson plan, no details concerning using the diesel apparatus was given; no standard was given as to the size of the pan, etc. Joy responded by

saying using a commercial apparatus was not so much the issue as whether the student is being properly trained according to the objective.

Bob agreed to compose the language for the lesson plan instructor notes, deleting the word “diesel” and the reference to the burn pan. He will disseminate the language to members and ask for an approval via e-mail. Jason suggested using the wording “self-sustained flame.”

POPAT

Bob stated that this item has been unresolved since the recent task analysis. This task analysis could not validate the current POPAT, but funding was not available at the time to design and validate a new POPAT. The issue before members is whether to continue mandating the current POPAT that is no longer validated or suspend the POPAT fully, or only the portion (culvert) that could adversely impact recruit testing.

Bob commented that money is now available for a study to validate POPAT.

Mack Creson stated he had discussed the issue with his school director, and there was a concern about the financial impact of constructing a new POPAT course.

Jason asked if there were any pending inquiries concerning adverse impacts of the current POPAT. Bob and Joy both stated they were not aware of any. Jeff stated that he had not detected the culvert being a problem with the POPAT. Kathryn commented she did not think the culvert obstacle should be eliminated. Joy said that the fact that the culvert was not a problem in passing the POPAT was reassuring.

Bob reminded the members that the BLET Revision Committee had requested that if at all possible, the current POPAT course/obstacles be retained, and this had been communicated to others in the Department of Justice.

Steve Warren made a motion to retain the current POPAT. Mack Creson seconded. **The motion was approved.**

Legal Counsel’s Report

Joy had nothing to report.

CJ Training and Standards Report

Mark Dearry commented that the current Orientation block directs school directors to notify Commission personnel at least four weeks in advance of the need for accommodation. Mark indicated that most of the requests they receive deal with testing accommodations, i.e., extend time of the test, distraction-free environment, have someone read the test to student, etc. Mark stated due to the time it takes for CJ Standards to process the request, school directors should try to submit these requests well in advance of orientation. Since students are making the request during the first week of the course and it takes six weeks for CJ Standards to review and process the request, it is then too late to accommodate students who will begin testing during the first few

weeks of BLET. Schools do not grant the accommodations; CJ Standards does this. An option might be to mail the accommodation request with an application or pre-qualification package prior to BLET. He encouraged school directors to anticipate the need and the time requirements to meet a student's need. Wayne Lamm suggested an e-mail be sent by CJ Standards to school directors explaining the time requirement necessary to accommodate students.

Mark mentioned the implementation of the 10th grade reading level requirement for BLET. The effective date is June 1, 2010. Due to some clarification in wording by the Rules Review Committee, CJ Standards will be appearing before the E&T Committee at its May meeting. Since schools need some time to effectively implement this requirement, an implementation date will be determined at the E& T meeting.

Jeff and Wayne expressed a concern about the implementation date and the need to be able to help students improve their reading level if necessary. Jeff suggested an implementation date of January 1, 2011.

Other Business

Jason asked if the state exam questions were being updated when BLET curriculum changes. Mark Dearry indicated they were. Jason inquired if the password for the Academy's website for BLET lesson plans could be disseminated earlier than June. He typically has instructors altogether at graduation and that would be a good time for him to provide that information. Bob stated he would inquire about disseminating that information in May.

Wayne stated there was not a check-off sheet in the Explosives and Hazardous Materials Emergencies outline for the exercise on using the fire extinguisher. He suggested adding a form showing students had successfully completed the practical exercise.

Jason offered another suggestion in that same block dealing with students using the *Emergency Response Guidebook*. A quiz is given on the use of the *Guidebook* (handout entitled "Hazardous Materials Identification Exercise"). He proposed adding a statement at the bottom of the form with an indication of "yes" or "no" they successfully demonstrated use of the *Guidebook*.

Jeff inquired when the new state exam would be used. Mark Dearry stated the date was not known at this time.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held July 9, 2010, 10 a.m., in Apex.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.